



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 959

LCO No. 2965

02965_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION OF YOUTH FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) On or before July 1, 2012,
2 and annually thereafter, the Commissioners of Children and Families
3 and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall, within existing
4 budgetary resources, jointly report, in accordance with section 11-4a of
5 the general statutes, to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight
6 Council, established pursuant to section 17a-22j of the general statutes,
7 and to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
8 cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and
9 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and the select
10 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
11 relating to children on the transition process for any child or youth
12 transitioning from the Department of Children and Families to the
13 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. For purposes of
14 this section: (1) "Child" means any person under sixteen years of age;
15 and (2) "youth" means any person sixteen years of age or older.

16 (b) The report shall include:

17 (1) A detailed description of such process;

18 (2) (A) The number of children and youth in the care of the
19 Department of Children and Families who are fourteen years of age or
20 older and who may require services from the Department of Mental
21 Health and Addiction Services upon reaching age eighteen, (B) the
22 diagnostic and behavioral issues related to the reason for potential
23 referral to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
24 (C) the anticipated service needs of such children and youth through
25 age twenty-one, (D) the identified permanency plans, and (E) the
26 anticipated budget implications for each department for two years
27 following the date of the report;

28 (3) For youth described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of
29 this subsection, (A) the average length of time between the youth's
30 sixteenth birthday and the date of referral to the Department of Mental
31 Health and Addiction Services, (B) the average length of time between
32 the date of referral and the date of acceptance for services by the
33 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, (C) the average
34 length of time between referral and completion of a written transition
35 plan that describes the youth's strengths and service needs necessary
36 for transition to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
37 Services, (D) the number of such youth in residential treatment or in
38 psychiatric hospitals who are in discharge delay status, (E) the
39 placement settings of such youth, (F) the identified permanency plans,
40 and (G) the number of such youth who have been (i) adjudicated
41 delinquent, (ii) arrested as adults, or (iii) incarcerated in a facility
42 operated by the Department of Correction, and the average length of
43 incarceration;

44 (4) The number of youth referred by the Department of Children
45 and Families who were denied services by the Department of Mental
46 Health and Addiction Services, and the reasons for such denials; and

47 (5) For youth referred by the Department of Children and Families
 48 who were accepted for services by the Department of Mental Health
 49 and Addiction Services, (A) the average length of time between the
 50 youth's eighteenth birthday and placement in a clinically appropriate
 51 level of care, (B) the number receiving services through young adult
 52 services division of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
 53 Services and the services provided, (C) the number receiving services
 54 through other divisions of the department and the services provided,
 55 (D) the number who refuse, withdraw or are discharged, and the
 56 average length of time between acceptance and refusal, withdrawal or
 57 discharge, and (E) the number arrested or incarcerated prior to their
 58 twenty-first birthday.

59 (c) In addition to the information required pursuant to subsection
 60 (b) of this section, the Commissioners of Children and Families and
 61 Mental Health and Addiction Services shall jointly review and include
 62 in the report any barriers to: (1) Referring no later than thirty days after
 63 their sixteenth birthday all youth who are in the care of the
 64 Department of Children and Families, and who may require services
 65 from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; (2)
 66 completing an eligibility determination no later than thirty days after
 67 the date of referral for all such youth; (3) developing appropriate
 68 transition plans no later than thirty days after a determination that a
 69 youth will be accepted for services from the Department of Mental
 70 Health and Addiction Services; (4) providing clinically appropriate
 71 services to youth in the care of the Department of Children and
 72 Families who may later be referred to the Department of Mental
 73 Health and Addiction Services; and (5) providing clinically
 74 appropriate services to young adults upon transition to the
 75 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

76 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Children
 77 and Families shall provide services to each youth who has been
 78 directly referred to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
 79 Services and has been accepted to receive services from the

80 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services until such time
81 as the Commissioners of Children and Families and Mental Health and
82 Addiction Services agree that all elements of the youth's transition plan
83 that directly relate to the youth making a safe and therapeutic
84 transition between the departments have been successfully completed.
85 For purposes of this section, "youth" means any person sixteen years of
86 age or older.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that youth successfully transition between the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]